

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /070 W
-----029386 240832Z /12

R 240330Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4137
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, AF
SUBJ: CHARTER OF AFGHANISTAN'S NEW "PARTY OF THE THE NATIONAL
REVOLUTION" IS PUBLISHED

1. SUMMARY. THE CHARTER OF THE PARTY OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTION (PNR), THE TEXT OF WHICH IS SO FAR AVAILABLE ONLY IN THE LOCAL LANGUAGE PRESS, CONTAINS NO SPECIFICS REGARDING APPOINTMENTS TO THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP, AND AT FIRST EXAMINATION APPEARS TO VARY LITTLE FROM A TRADITIONAL PARTY ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF OTHER SINGLE-PARTY STATES, EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF EMPLOYING SOME SIMILAR TERMINOLOGY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LOCAL LANGUAGE PRESS -- PUSHTO AND DARI -- PUBLISHED THE CHARTER OF THE PNR ON AUGUST 16, BUT SO FAR THE LOCAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "KABUL TIMES" HAS NOT YET CARRIED AN AUTHORITY ENGLISH VERSION OF THE TEXT. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE "TIMES" EDITORS THAT THEY ARE WORKING ON A TRANSLATION, BUT THAT UPON COMPLETION, IT WILL NEED TO BE "APPROVED" BEFORE
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IT CAN GO TO PRESS. IN THAT THIS PROCEDURE MAY TAKE AT LEAST SEVERAL MORE DAYS, WE HAVE GLEANED SOME OF THE SALIENT POINTS FROM THE DARI VERSION FOR TRANSMITTAL NOW, AND WILL PREPARE A FULLER ANALYSIS UPON RECEIPT OF THE "OFFICIAL" TRANSLATION.

3. THE PNR CHARTER HAS 116 ARTICLES, AND DOES NOT NAME ANY INDIVIDUALS TO SPECIFIC POSTS, NOR DOES IT CONTAIN DATA ON THE

PROJECTED TOTAL PNR MEMBERSHIP. THE "CENTRAL COUNCIL" -- WHOSE SIZE AND MAKE-UP OF MEMBERSHIP ARE NOT SPELLED OUT -- OVERSEES THE PARTY APPARATUS. (COMMENT: "CENTRAL COMMITTEE" WAS REJECTED AS A TITLE FOR THIS BODY FOR TWO REASONS: FIRST, IT WOULD HAVE EVOKED MEMORIES OF THE SHADOWY GROUP WHICH CARRIED OUT THE JULY 17, 1973, COUP D'ETAT, AND WHICH REMAINED EXTANT UNTIL IT WAS ABOLISHED BY PRESIDENT DAOUD ON FEB 26, 1977; AND SECOND, ACCORDING TO A HIGH-RANKING AFGHAN OFFICIAL, PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD BELIEVED THAT THE TERM CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD "TOO COMMUNIST" A RING TO IT. END COMMENT.)

4. THE BASIC ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OF THE PARTY STRUCTURE IS THE VILLAGE "JIRGAH", THE TRADITIONAL AFGHAN TITLE FOR A DELIBERATIVE BODY AT ANY LEVEL. THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY OF THE PNR IS VESTED IN THE "PARTY CONGRESS", WHOSE MEMBERS ARE ELECTED EVERY SIX YEARS, AND WHICH MUST MEET AT LEAST EVERY TWO YEARS. DURING ITS SESSION, THE CONGRESS REVIEWS AND APPROVES THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL, AND ELECTS THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERS.

5. BETWEEN SESSIONS OF THE CONGRESS, THE CENTRAL COUNCIL REPRESENTS THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY OF THE PNR. THE PRESIDENT OF AFGHANISTAN IS AUTOMATICALLY ALSO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PNR, AND LIAISON BETWEEN THE PNR AND THE MILITARY WILL BE THROUGH THE "HIGH COUNCIL OF THE ARMED FORCES", A BODY MENTIONED IN ARTICLE 131 OF THE CONSTITUTION, BUT WHICH ITSELF HAS NOT YET BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESTABLISHED.

6. AS FOR PARTY MEMBERSHIP, APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE SOLICITED FROM ALL SEGMENTS OF AFGHAN SOCIETY, INCLUDING WORKERS, YOUTH, FARMERS, AND WOMEN, BUT, INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, NO MENTION IS MADE OF THE MILITARY IN THIS CONTEXT. (THEY ARE PRESUMABLY REPRESENTED THROUGH THE LIAISON ARRANGEMENT DESCRIBED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH.) AN APPLICANT FOR MEMBERSHIP MUST SPEND TWO YEARS' APPRENTICESHIP PROVING HIS BONA FIDES, ALTHOUGH THE CENTRAL COUNCIL MAY FOREGO THIS REQUIREMENT IN THE BEGINNING, PRESUMABLY IN ORDER TO GET THE PARTY OFF THE GROUND AT AN EARLY DATE. AN INTERESTING SOCIETAL XENOPHOBIA IS REFLECTED IN THE REQUIREMENT THAT ALL MEMBERS MUST BE AFGHAN CITIZENS "BORN OF AFGHAN PARENTS".

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /070 W
-----028494 240831Z /12

R 240330Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
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7. COMMENT: THE APPROVED ENGLISH TRANSLATION SHOULD, OF COURSE, PROVE TO BE MORE ENLIGHTENING, AND SHOULD PROVIDE FIRMER INDICATIONS REGARDING THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY THE PNR AS DAOUD CONTINUES HIS PROGRAM TO MOVE AFGHANISTAN FROM A ROYAL TO A REPUBLICAN POLITICAL ENTITY -- AND PREPARE FOR THE SUCCESSION TO HIS HIGHLY PERSONAL RULE. ON THE SURFACE, HOWEVER, THE PNR CHARTER STRIKES US AS LEANING HEAVILY ON THE TRADITIONAL SINGLE-PARTY MODEL, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THIS IS INDEED MERELY A SUPERFICIAL APPEARANCE, OR WHETHER DAOUD IS GENUINELY CONVINCED THAT SUCH A MODEL PROVIDES A VALID BLUEPRINT FOR FUTURE AFGHAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.
END COMMENT.
EMSTUTZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PARTY CONSTITUTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KABUL05916
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770305-0597
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770830/aaaaayom.tel
Line Count: 150
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 59aade55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1506617
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHARTER OF AFGHANISTAN'S NEW \"PARTY OF THE THE NATIONAL REVOLUTION\" IS PUBLISHED
TAGS: PINT, AF, PARTY OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTION
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59aade55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009